

# Women Warriors Newsletter

Women Veterans Program  
Providence VA Medical Center  
Rhode Island

Winter 2012-2013

URI Feinstein Providence Campus presents

## WE SERVED Too!



RHODE ISLAND  
WORLD WAR II  
WOMEN STORIES

THE PREMIERE OF A PLAY  
CREATED AND DIRECTED  
BY FRANK V. TOTI JR.



**MARCH 22-23 7:30PM**  
**MARCH 23-24 2:00PM**



THIS PLAY WAS WRITTEN FROM ORAL HISTORIES GATHERED  
FROM MORE THAN TWENTY LOCAL WWII WOMEN VETERANS,  
INCLUDING SPARS, WACS, WAVES & WASPS.

**URI FEINSTEIN PROVIDENCE CAMPUS PAFF AUDITORIUM**  
**80 WASHINGTON ST, PROVIDENCE, RI 02903**

Performances are FREE and open to the public. Donations are accepted.  
For information call 401-277-5206 [uri.artsandculture@gmail.com](mailto:uri.artsandculture@gmail.com) or visit [uri.edu/provarts](http://uri.edu/provarts)



Follow us on twitter @URIProvarts.

**URI Providence Campus presents.....**  
**WE SERVED TOO! Rhode Island World War II Women Veterans' Stories**  
**March 22-23 at 7:30 p.m., March 23-24 at 2 p.m.**

**Your Women's Health  
Care Team**

Dr. Dawna Blake, Women's  
Health Care Director

Pilar Capili, RN, Clinic Coordinator

Beth Grady, LCSW, Women  
Veterans Program Manager

Stacey DeOrsey, Social Worker

Catherine Peloquin, LPN

Laura Akinola, Patient Care  
Assistant

Joan Bateman-Smith, Patient  
Care Assistant

Yolanda Tangui, Patient Care  
Assistant

Dr Jon Bas, Provider

Karen Chase, NP, Provider

Dr. Joan Karl, Provider

Dr Emily Leveen, Provider

Joyce Simon, NP, Provider

Dr. Vinita Goyal, Gynecologist

Dr. Natalie Mariano, Hyannis  
CBOC, Provider

Cheryl Collins, NP, Hyannis

Dr. Terri Tamase, Middletown  
CBOC, Provider



*"We go by many names* – daughter, sister, mother, aunt, grandmother – children of the Great Depression. But the name we are most proud of is VETERAN – of the Second World War – We served too – some 400,000 of us! We women served – at home and abroad, in offices, in hospitals, in fox holes; recruiting, guarding prisoners of war, training pilots, caring for recovering soldiers, working in the motor corps – there was no job too small or too big for us to do. We answered the call and joined to do our part for our country in its hour of need, from Maine to California, New York to Florida, and many places in between."

The play, *We Served Too!*, is an oral history play, gathered from the personal stories of more than twenty local WWII Women Veterans, representing all branches of the service. These women, who are 87-104 years of age, are remarkable and not just for their advanced years. Most people born at that time never left their hometown and did not travel. These pioneers chose a path of adventure and service to our nation during the war years. At the time, the roles available to women were limited – factory, office work, marriage, and a family. If college was a possibility, all that could be hoped for was a job as a secretary, teacher, or nurse.

When the call went out, more than 400,000 women joined the U.S. Armed Forces. The Army had the WAACS (later WACS), the Navy had the WAVES, the Air Force had the WASPS, and the Coast Guard had the SPARS. Other women went to work for the government in Secret Service, Department of Agriculture and other areas of government in service to the war effort, though they were civilians. Whether stationed in the U.S. or overseas in the European or Pacific Theatres, each of these women had a strength and determination to forge a path in 'non-combat' positions, which laid the foundation for the recent opening of combat positions to women. They have rarely heard stories to tell, life experiences that forever changed them and set them apart from the norm. The play, WE SERVED TOO!, presents stories of these pioneer women, Rhode Island residents who answered the call and served with distinction.

The play is written and directed by Frank V. Toti Jr. and includes performances by a group of dynamic local actors: Pricilla Bento, Carole Collins, Cynthia Glinick, Patricia Hawkrige, Lauren Odenwalder, and Michele Rogers. The Stage Manager is Siobhan LaPorte-Cauley.

URI Providence Campus  
80 Washington Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Performances are FREE and open to the public

For information contact 401-277-5206 [uri.artsandculture@gmail.com](mailto:uri.artsandculture@gmail.com)

## Tents to Tea Featured Guests!

By Adele Geringer, VIST Coordinator

On Friday, January 25, Beth Grady, the Women Veterans' Program Manager, invited Veteran Virginia Beltz, Volunteer Barbara Henry, and Providence VAMC Employee Rose Gallucci to speak at Tents to Tea, a quarterly gathering of women Veterans at the Providence VAMC. Adele Geringer, VIST (Visual Impairment Services Team) Coordinator, invited the presenters for the group.

Virginia is a WWII Veteran who is legally blind and partially deaf. She spoke about her military experiences as well as her experiences utilizing the services the VA has for the blind. She spoke about her attendance at West Haven Blind Rehabilitation program where she received instruction on how to live more independently with adaptations to compensate for her vision loss. She also received instruction on how to travel independently using a mobility cane as well as a support cane (both red and white to identify her as visually impaired). She also participated in West Haven's adaptive computer program where she was trained on, and received, a dell computer that magnifies print for her. Computers with speech programs are also available for the blind Veterans as well as I Pads and other assistive technology that will help them meet identified goals.

Barbara was born blind and has a Masters Degree in Social Work. She volunteers at the VA at least once a month to assist in running a monthly support group for the blind. She also assists in community presentations and education projects to raise community awareness about blind issues.

Rose is a VA employee who works in the My HealtheVet Program. She has trained many blind Veterans to use this program to order medications or to manage their health care on-line.

Katie Gabriel, our Blind Rehabilitation Specialist, also spoke about some adaptive devices and magnifiers for the blind, and Adele Geringer gave an overview of the VIST program.

For more information regarding benefits and services available to blind Veterans, please contact Adele Geringer, VIST Coordinator, at 401-273-7100, ext. 1554.

**A Support Cane...is designed primarily to offer physical stability to a visually impaired user. It also provides a means of identification because of the red and white colors, alerting others that the person using this cane has some form of visual impairment.**



## Numbers to Know; Numbers to Grow

**Eligibility & Enrollments:**  
401-457-3300

**OEF/OIF Program Manager:**  
401-273-7100, ext. 6137

**Veterans CRISIS Line (formerly called the Mental Health hotline)**  
1-800-273-TALK (8255)

**Telephone Assistant Program (TAP) Line**  
401-457-3336  
1-866-590-2976

**Homeless Resources**  
401-273-7100, ext. 3553

**Hotline for Homeless Veterans**  
1-877-424-3838

**State of Rhode Island Department of Human Services Division of Veterans Affairs**  
401-254-8460

**Veterans Benefits Administration, Women Veterans Coordinator**  
401-223-3651

**Human services and helping agencies**  
2-1-1

**My HealtheVet: Eileen Kirshenbaum**  
401-273-7100 ext. 3693

**VET CENTERS:**  
Warwick: 401-739-0167  
New Bedford: 508-999-6920  
Hyannis: 508-778-0124



## Department of Veterans Affairs

### Providence VA Medical Center

830 Chalkstone Avenue  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908  
(401) 273-7100

### Hyannis CBOC

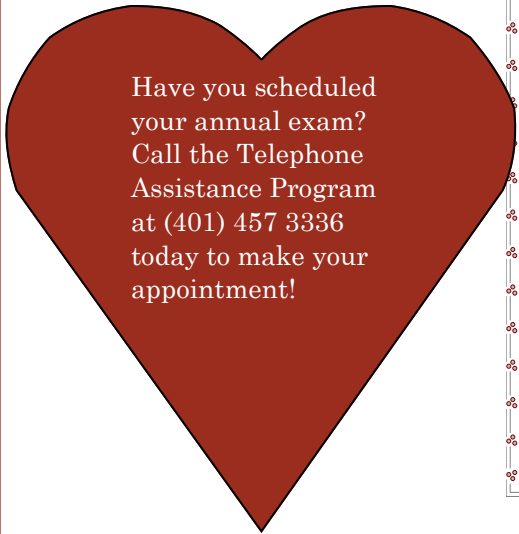
VA Primary Care Center  
233 Stevens Street  
Hyannis, MA 02601-3766  
Phone: (508) 771-3190

### Middletown CBOC

One Corporate Place  
(West Main Road at Northgate  
Road)  
Middletown, RI 02842  
Phone: (401) 847-6239

### New Bedford CBOC

175 Elm Street  
New Bedford, Mass 02740  
Phone: (508) 994-5489



Have you scheduled  
your annual exam?  
Call the Telephone  
Assistance Program  
at (401) 457 3336  
today to make your  
appointment!

*The Providence VA Medical Center is committed to meeting the unique needs of women Veterans by delivering the highest quality health care to each woman, while offering her the privacy, dignity, and sensitivity to gender-specific needs that she deserves. Our full time Women Veterans Program Manager is ready to assist you in getting timely access to the health care you need. Please call Beth Grady, LCSW, Women Veteran Program Manager, (401) 273-7100, ext. 6191*

## WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE

*You served, you deserve  
★ the best care anywhere.*



# Check this out!!

Beginning May 14, we will begin offering Living Well RI (*Chronic Disease Self Management Workshop*). We will meet every Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. through June 29. The workshop is for anyone with a chronic condition and will focus on how to manage symptoms and medications; how to communicate effectively with your family and doctors, relaxation techniques, handling difficult emotions, eating well and exercising safely, and how to set goals to improve your health. Call Ellen Lynch at 401-273-7100, ext. 3970, to register.

On May 15, we will hold a 2k Walk and Roll to benefit homeless Veterans and promote health and wellness. All Veterans are encouraged to participate. Please call Ellen Lynch 401-273-7100, ext. 3970, for further information.

### RHODE ISLAND WOMEN VETERANS CIRCLE OF SUPPORT

Learn about your latest benefits

File a claim

Talk to a counselor

FREE Goodies and Gifts!!!

Thursday, March 21, 6:00pm-8:00pm Warwick Vet Center

Saturday, March 23, 9:00am-1:00pm PVAMC, 5<sup>th</sup> floor,  
Classroom 2

For Information, call 401-223-3651